



*Brockton, Massachusetts*  
*"City of Champions"*  
*Linda M. Balzotti – Mayor*

Good Evening, Mr. Superintendent, Members of the School Committee, City Councilors, Dr. Szachowicz, administrators, faculty, staff, family, friends and Congratulations to the Class of 2010 – who are about to join one of the largest and greatest groups around, one of which I am proud card-carrying member: Brockton High School Graduates.

I owe the Class of 2010 a great big thank you; you see you were one of the driving forces behind my successful campaign for Mayor of the City of Brockton. You may be wondering how that is possible: let me explain. As I went door to door in the warm days of last summer talking with residents about why I was running for Mayor, I began to think about all the responsibilities

that came with being the Mayor of the City of Brockton. Believe me, at times it can be overwhelming.

I also thought about some of the rewarding parts of the job, and it was then that I realized I would have the opportunity to speak to you on your graduation day. I would be able to tell you that 31 years ago, in June of 1979, I walked across the same field you just did and sat in a blue chair (I was in the Azure house and back then the chairs were color coded) and listened as speakers talked about staying true to yourself and reaching for your dreams. Never once thinking I would proudly be standing before you today as the first female Mayor of the City of Brockton.

I knew what I thought I wanted to do and I set out on that course, but life took me in many directions before I got to this place. A place I am so proud to be in. Even with all its difficulties and challenges, I love my job and I am so grateful to

all the residents of this city who have given me the opportunity to serve.

Class of 2010 – the best advice I can give to you is find your passion – find something you love to do and do it. It is when you find that passion that you will find true joy. I leave you with the words of that famous philosopher Christopher Robin, who said to his friend Winnie the Pooh “Promise me you’ll always remember: you’re braver than you believe and stronger than you seem and smarter than you think”

Class of 2010 – Congratulations and good luck!